

STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

NUISANCE INSPECTOR,

**For the Year 1909.**



STANDISH,

January, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council,  
Standish-with-Langtree.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Fifteenth Annual Report for your consideration, and at the same time gratefully acknowledge the assistance which has been given in trying to secure a better condition of the public health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. WILSON, M.D.

Fellow of the Royal Institute of  
Public Health ;

Member of Incorporated Society  
of Medical Officers of Health.



# Statistical Summary for 1909.

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Population, Census 1901	...	...	...	6303
,, Estimated, July 1st, 1909	...	...	...	7048
Acreage of Township	...	...	...	3264 acres
Density of Population	...	...	...	2.28 per acre
Births—Males	...	...	...	104
Females	...	...	...	125
Total	...	...	...	229
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	52
Females	...	...	...	60
Total	...	...	...	112
Annual Birth Rate	...	...	...	32.49
Annual Death Rate	...	...	...	15.89
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	123
Total Zymotic Deaths	...	...	...	3
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	...	0.42
Deaths in Infants under one year of age	...	...	...	31
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	135
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	4
Illegitimate Deaths	...	...	...	0

TABLE I.

## STATISTICAL TABLE FOR PAST 10 YEARS.

Estimated Population to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.				Death- rate over 65 years.	Zymotic Death- rate.		
	No.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	All Ages No.	Rate per Popula- tion.	Under 1 year.	Infantile death-rate per 1,000 Births.				
1899...	6,138	285	35.04	142	23.13	47	218.60	12.23	3.09	3.58
1900...	6,245	208	33.30	121	19.86	38	182.70	8.97	2.72	3.20
1901...	6,325	214	33.67	108	17.07	42	196.02	8.96	2.37	3.16
1902...	6,413	264	41.16	112	17.46	36	186.74	9.82	1.55	2.02
1903...	6,502	222	34.14	91	13.99	32	141.14	7.38	2.76	1.99
1904...	6,546	223	34.06	131	20.00	39	174.08	8.40	2.74	1.98
1905...	6,680	227	33.98	108	16.16	38	167.40	8.38	2.09	1.04
1906...	6,772	225	33.22	95	14.02	38	168.80	6.79	2.86	1.88
1907...	6,864	207	31.15	134	19.50	30	144.90	9.90	2.90	4.38
1908...	6,956	249	35.79	107	15.38	35	140.56	6.61	2.87	2.15

Averages for years,

1899/1908 ...6,544

225

34.55

114

17.65

37

172.09

8.74

2.59

2.53

1909...

7,048

229

32.49

112

15.89

31

135.

1.7

3.26

0.42

TABLE II. CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH.

	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5 Years.	5 and under 15 Years.	15 and under 25 Years.	25 and under 65 Years.	Over 65 Years.
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	6	...	...	...	...	5	1
Diarrhoea ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	9	4	3	1	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	4	...	...	...	...	3	1
Bronchitis	7	2	...	...	...	2	3
Pneumonia	18	6	2	1	2	3	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	2	1	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	4	4	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Disease	12	...	1	...	1	5	5
Accidents ...	5	...	1	1	1	2	...
Suicides ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other Causes	28	9	2	...	2	7	8
All Causes	112	31	12	4	8	34	23

The Births are less by 20 than in the previous year, the rate falling from 35.79 to 32.49. It will be noticed that the female births exceeded the males by 21. The illegitimate births were 4, or one more than in 1908.

The deaths show an increase of 5, the rate varying from 15.38 to 15.89. Of the total deaths shown, 6 were in people belonging to the district who died in institutions outside, viz., the Infirmary and the Workhouse at Wigan, but which are included for statistical purposes. As will be seen from Table IV., the affections appertaining to the respiratory organs contributed the largest number of deaths, 29, whilst Heart Disease, Phthisis, and Tubercular Diseases each caused 12; whilst Accidents resulted in 5 deaths, and Prematurity of Birth 4.

*Infantile Deaths.*—These were 31 in number, which is equal to a rate per 1,000 births of 135. Included in this number, however, are 4 which died as the result solely of premature birth, so that one might say they never had a chance. Deducting these, our rate would stand at 117.9. By following the figures in the Statistical Table (I.) for 10 years, you will observe that the number of deaths in infants has steadily decreased, the average being 172. There was very little of the abdominal complaints in infants which are generally so fatal, only 4 being ascribed to these causes, such as Diarrhœa, Enteritis, Zymotic Enteritis, Summer Diarrhœa, and Gastro Enteritis. Wasting Disease, or Marasmus, accounted for 5 infantile deaths, whilst Convulsions and Chest Affections gave rise to 6, and Congenital Defects to 4 deaths. Over premature birth and congenital defects we have little or no control, and chest affections will always demand its toll, but the gastro-enteritis affections and wasting diseases are, in my opinion, largely due to wrong feeding, or insufficient care in the storing and preparation of food for infants, more especially those which from some reasons are unable to have the benefit of the natural food, and have to be reared artificially. In order to assist those where thus feeding infants, at the request of the Council, I drew up a few directions for sterilizing milk, which



were printed on a small card ( $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.), as briefly and plainly as possible, so that all might understand the instructions given.

*(Copy of Card.)*

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARENTS.

It is desirable, where possible, a mother should suckle her baby. There are cases, however, where this is impossible. The best substitute is cow's milk, and this can be made safer for infants by sterilizing. This can be done in the following manner:—

1. Bring the milk slowly to a boil. When it reaches the boiling point, bottle, cork up tightly, and allow to cool. An ordinary pint bottle, with a good cork, answers well for this purpose.
2. Keep in as cool a place as possible.
3. Never give milk more than 24 hours old to an infant.
4. Cleanse and scald all bottles before re-filling.

*Note.*—It is imperative that sauce-pans used for boiling milk be kept scrupulously clean, and it is better, if possible, to keep one for this purpose alone, decomposition in milk being brought about by contamination in some form.

These were largely distributed in the district, and were given to all where a member of the family was suffering from diarrhoea.

In addition, I gave a number of directions for householders to adopt in my monthly report for April, and which were duly published in the public Press. These were:—

1. Boil all milk as soon as received into the house, and bottle, as mentioned in the directions for sterilization.
2. Cook all meat and fish on the day of purchase.
3. Avoid all unripe and over-ripe fruit. Never eat plums unless cooked.
4. Attend well to the cleansing and flushing of slopstone pipes and gullies.
5. Burn all vegetable refuse, instead of throwing it into the ashpit.
6. Immediately investigate all smells, and if the <sup>cause</sup> ~~same~~ is not discovered, send word to the Inspector of Nuisances.
7. Keep all meat, milk, sugar, butter, etc., from flies by covering up with some fine netting or light material. Remember that flies are great carriers of dirt and disease.

We also, in all cases of sickness in children, of whatever character, invoked the assistance of the District Nurse. By showing the people "a better way" than their own, and by instruction, I believe much good has been accomplished.

TABLE III.

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES NOTIFIED.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Deaths.
Measles	4	19	23	24	30	22	11	2	1	...	...	..	127
Scarlet Fever	...	3	7	10	3	8	16	9	4	4	2	...	66
Diphtheria and Croup	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	7
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	1	2	4	1	..	2	6	...	4	...	2	4	26
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total	6	15	34	36	34	32	34	11	11	5	7	5	230
													3

## Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Rate per 1000  
of Population.

Scarlet Fever .....	1
Diphtheria and Croup.....	2
Total.....	3

... 0·14  
... 0·28

0·42

*Zymotic Disease.*—A glance at Table III. shows that we had Measles and Scarlet Fever amongst the children for almost the whole year, 127 cases of the former, and 66 of the latter being notified. Measles was not so virulent as previously, and there were no deaths therefrom, but Scarlet Fever claimed one victim. Diphtheria and Membranous Croup affected 7 children, two of them succumbing to the attack.

Enteric Fever was seen in 3 cases, with no fatal result. It is gratifying to notice how few cases of this zymotic we have (with the exception of last year, when it was imported) in comparison to former years. The excellent water supply, the gradual putting into repair old privy middens and bringing them up to modern requirements, better sanitary provisions in the mines, have all had their influence in reducing the number of cases to its present limit. It is interesting to note that none of the cases were in workers underground.

Erysipelas, as usual, contributes a considerable number of cases. This is largely due to the number of injuries—many of them very small, mere scratches, in fact—which become fouled at the time of the injuries, in workers in about the coal pits. In the nature of their employment a large area of the body is dirty, so that entry into the tissues of some initerent can hardly be prevented. Dressings of carbolic oil are provided at the pits for application to the wound as soon as can be after the receipt of an injury, but, strangely, the cases of erysipelas occur mostly in the case of small injuries, in which the injured thinks at the time it is not worth troubling about. The affection is not nearly so frequently met with in the case of more severe injuries, where the patient has his wound attended to almost at once.

*Smallpox.*—A case was notified to me on November 5th, 1909, in a boy 7 years old. I examined the patient, and concurred in the diagnosis. Within a few hours the patient was removed to the cottage, which has been continuously maintained for the reception of such cases for the last 15 years. The case was one of discrete smallpox, with a fairly profuse rash, but made a

good recovery, and was discharged on December 20th, quite convalescent. There were no further cases.

The fewness of the deaths, 3, from zymotic diseases is very gratifying, having been 16 in 1908, and 30 in 1907. The zymotic death-rate is by far the lowest I ever remember for the district—0.42.

*Mumps*.—This is an infectious disease largely affecting children, generally preceding an outbreak of measles, but the outbreak which was rife here during October and November was after the measles had largely disappeared. This disease is not notifiable, so we have no exact figures, but the attendances fell to such an extent at the Infants' National School, that closure for two weeks (from November 8th to 21st) was a formal matter. At time of closure the figures at the school were:—

Number on Register under 5 years	88	
Number on Register over 5 years	204	
		—
		292
Absent under 5 years	...	39
Absent over 5 years	...	189
		—
Total Absentees	...	226

The greater number of these were due to mumps. It is not often that this complaint attacks the children of a community in epidemic form; it is the first time I have seen such an outbreak. The affected children did not seem to suffer much inconvenience, and very few sought medical advice, nor did it cause any serious complications. A few isolated cases occurred after the re-opening of the school, but the attendances soon arrived at the usual averages.

*Phthisis*.—Three deaths from phthisis, and nine from other tuberculous affections were registered. There is no system of notification, either compulsory or voluntary. Known cases and cases of death in these cases are as far as possible treated as other infectious diseases.

*Puerperal Fever.*—No death occurred, nor was any notification received of the existence of what used to be known as “Lying-in Fever.”

*Ankylostomiasis.*—No case reported.

*School Closure.*—In addition to the closure on account of mumps, already referred to, it seemed desirable, on account of the existence of measles and scarlet fever at Lower Ground, to close the school for a period of 3 weeks, from March 29th to April 18th inclusive. At my visit on March 25th, to the school, the absentees numbered 50, out of a register of 186. Of the absentees 14 were scholars from Wigan, 36 from Lower Ground, but none of those from Crooke were affected.

*Drains, Sewers, and Sewage Disposal.*—The drains are in good order, are flushed and tested as often as considered necessary or advisable. The ventilation has received a good deal of attention, and is considered efficient and sufficient.

Sewage is disposed of on the Council's Farm, by land irrigation and bacteriological filtration. The resulting effluents have been very satisfactory, and no complaint has been received from the Ribble Joint Commissioners.

Plans have been prepared, and are under consideration, for the provision of a sewage scheme for the districts of Bradley, Chorley Lane, and Wigan. <sup>Wigan</sup> A Local Government Board enquiry has been held concerning the matter, and their reply is awaited.

*Cleansing and Scavenging* is carried out by the Council in the Standish district, and by contract in the Lower Ground area. Both are satisfactorily performed.

*Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops.*—These are frequently inspected, and are generally in good condition, considerable improvements having been carried out during the year, and atten-



tion is being given to those in which the ventilation and lighting are not satisfactory. I should be glad to see glass bottles adopted for the household delivery of milk, in place of the old-fashioned cans.

*Lodging Houses.*—There are no common lodging houses. Houses where lodgers are taken are registered, and inspected. They are clean, and in almost all cases the number of lodgers is less than the number they are registered to accommodate .

*Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.*—The premises coming under this Act are:—

Factories	...	...	1
Breweries	...	...	2
Dressmakers	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	4
Joiners and Sawyers	...	...	8
Cloggers	...	...	5
Blacksmiths	...	...	3

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Twenty-one inspections were made, four of factories and seventeen of workshops and workplaces. One breach of sanitary requirements was discovered, which was remedied on attention being called to it. The standard of sanitary requirements considered sufficient is one closet for twenty females, and one for twenty-five males.

There are no outworkers.

The bakehouses have been inspected, and are clean and in sanitary condition, and the provisions of the Act as to lime-washing and cleansing carried out.

*Food and Drugs Act.*—No action has been taken.

*Notification of Births Act, 1907,* has not been adopted.

*Water Supply.*—This is now continuous. The water is upland surface water from the watershed of the Liverpool Corporation at Rivington. It is of excellent quality, and has not been found to have any appreciable action on lead. The construction of a storage reservoir (underground) in Green Lane, has quite put an end to the interruptions of supply formerly occasioned by mining subsidence and other causes.

*Disinfection.*—No apparatus is provided, but the method employed, fumigation by burning sulphur, is quite effectual.

*Slaughter Houses* are inspected periodically, are clean, well kept, and the bye-laws referring to limewashing carried out.

*Canal Boats Act.*—The Council is not a Registration Authority.

*Offensive Trades.*—One business coming within this category is carried on. Improvements have been made, and I have not had any complaints of offensive smells, nor have I experienced any when in the vicinity.

*Vaccination.*—Exemptions are increasing under the recent Act, and for the year number 26, an increase of 11 over the previous year.

*Deaths from Burning.*—I am glad to say none such have happened during the year.



Council Offices,

Standish, January 29th, 1910.

## Nuisance Inspector's Annual Report, 1909.

TO DR. WILSON, Medical Officer of Health to the  
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the past year.

Three cases of Enteric Fever, 58 of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria, 120 of Measles, and 1 of Smallpox were reported to me during 1909, against 10 cases of Enteric Fever, 10 of Scarlet Fever, 7 of Diphtheria, and 7 of Measles for the previous year. All the cases of Enteric, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria were visited by me, and supplied with disinfectants and all necessary precautions insisted upon, by frequent visitations, and all houses where fever existed were fumigated. Great care was also exercised in the Smallpox case, which occurred at Lower Ground. On receipt of your report that it was a Smallpox case, I immediately took men down and removed the Caretaker from the Hospital, fixed up the necessary beds, and had all in order and ready for the reception of the patient.

The house where the outbreak occurred, No. 26, Lower Ground, was thoroughly disinfected and fumigated, and every possible care being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. I have also disinfected and fumigated the Hospital, and it has also been limewashed and cleaned. The bedding has been disinfected.

*Houses.*—50 new houses have been erected; 2 are in course of erection, and 2 have been enlarged.

*Nuisances.*—50 nuisances have been reported, and all abated with the exception of two which are in course of abatement.

I have inspected the Factory and Workshops, and found them in a satisfactory condition, limewashing, etc., having been attended to.

Dairies and Cowsheds have also been inspected, and on two of the farms the shippens were dark and low, and at two others liquid tanks were required to receive the drainage. Improvements are being carried out to the shippon on one farm. I have as instructed notified the owners of defective premises as to their condition, and requested them to put them in a sanitary state.

Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses were in order, limewashing having been done.

*Lodging Houses.*—I have inspected the houses where lodgers are taken, and as a rule the number is less than that for which they are registered.

*Sewers.*—The sewers in the district have been attended to as regards flushing and cleaning of manholes, particularly at Lower Ground. No serious blockage has taken place this year.

*Ashpits.*—The ashpits are emptied by the Council's workmen in the Standish portion of the district, and in the Lower Ground portion by contract.

*Sewage.*—The Sewage from the Standish portion of the district is still treated by irrigation, and then picked up and distributed on ash filters. The chief Inspector to the Ribble Joint Committee expresses himself satisfied with the effluent.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD SHEPHERD.